Failure to deposit of P.F. amount

926. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner, Kanpur U.P. has identified serious lapses against U.P. Export Corporation Limited, Kanpur for its failure to deposit PF amounts of the employees;

(b) whether the company is unable to settle dues of the retiring employees;

(c) whether Government have taken up the issue with the State of U.P. for directing their company to observe and follow rules and regulations; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pending formal exemption, the U.P. Export Corporation Limited Kanpur was allowed relaxation to manage their provident fund as an exempted establishment. The RPFC Kanpur noted serious default and, therefore, directed the establishment to comply with the provisions of the Act with effect from 1.2.95 as an unexempted establishment. The establishment has also been directed to transfer the past P.F. accumulations to the RPFC, Uttar Pradesh in the prescribed manner. As such, the claims under the fund are required to be settled by the RPFC, U.P. not by the establishment.

(c) and (d) The RPFC, U.P. who is concerned with the matter has already taken necessary action. As such, the question of taking up the issue with the State Government does not arise.

Country's position in respect of child labour in the world

927. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of child labourers in the country is comparatively higher than that in other developing countries of the world;

(b) if so, the place of India in the world in respect of the number of child labourers; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) As per the 1981 census India has a child labour population of 13.64 million. However, as per 43rd Round of the National Sample Survey, 1987, the number of child labour is estimated at 17.02 million. As reported by the World Labour Report, 1992, published by ILO, India has probably the largest number of working children. However, in India, the percentage of children to the total labour force was 5.03 as per 1981 census, whereas the ILO Report mentions that several Asian & African countries have child labour workers accounting for upto 16% of their labour force.

(c) Government have already taken several steps to tackle the problem of child labour. A comprehensive law, the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act was enacted in 1986. Government are also considering to amend this Law to make it more effective. As per the National Child Labour Policy, 1987, child labour is being tackled through (a) Legislation (b) General Development Programmes for benefit of child labour; and (d) through implementation of National Child Labour Projects. India is also a participant in the ILO's International Programme for the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). In addition, the Government of India's efforts to tackle the